



## SUCCESS STORY

# Better Seeds Means More Food

**USAID helps supply wheat seeds for farmers to ensure food security in Kyrgyzstan**



USAID's project staff inspect the planted wheat on a demonstration farm.  
Photo: IFDC

***By fall 2009, USAID will provide over 5,000 metric tons of quality wheat seeds for over 35,000 Kyrgyz farmers to increase the yields of wheat and the food availability in the country.***

Nowadays, many countries all over the world are facing the food security risks, and Kyrgyzstan is not an exception. According to official sources, Kyrgyzstan has an annual deficit of 400,000 metric tons of bread wheat, mostly due to poor seed quality and outdated wheat varieties used for production. Each year, the country falls short by 11,000 -16,000 metric tons of quality seed.

To ensure sufficient production of wheat – the major staple food, USAID allocated \$300,000 for 275 metric tones of winter wheat seeds for Kyrgyzstan during 2008-2009. The seeds are being distributed by the USAID Kyrgyz Agro-Input Enterprise Development Project, implemented by IFDC, in cooperation with the Kyrgyz Association of Agro-businessmen (AAK), the Seed Association, and the Cooperative Union.

The 275 metric tons of seeds arrived from Krasnodar Institute in Russia in October 2008. Majority of this amount is distributed in the northern areas of Kyrgyzstan, some will go to the southern parts, while 40 metric tons was sent to the seed farms for further multiplication. The farmers can purchase the seeds through the USAID-supported network of AAK stores with a 25% subsidy to encourage the buyer preference to these quality seeds.

The funds generated from seed sales will be used to establish a revolving seed fund. Part of the accumulated money will be used to purchase the seeds from the seed farms next year, and the rest will be spent for bringing more wheat seeds. This mechanism will expand the quality seed varieties in the country, so that farmers can access high-yield seeds each year and continue increasing their harvests.

USAID expects that the revolving seed fund will eventually be able to sustain itself and continue improving the country's seed quality and help farmers increase wheat production. By 2009, over 35,000 farmers across Kyrgyzstan will benefit from the increased seed availability.